

LEADERS AGREED ON REDISTRICTING

(Continued from First Page.)

amendments will be readily agreed to by the House.

There is some chance for the West bill, requiring fee officers to keep account of their receipts. It is set for a hearing in the House Finance Committee this morning. As a last resort, fee officials on yesterday flooded the Capitol with telegrams to the effect that they are unable to keep their accounts, lacking the ability thereof. Senator West will ask the committee to report the bill, and it will come up in the House if it can be gotten on the floor. The amendment put on by the Senate committee, extending its operation to petty magisterial district officers, which was not desired, may be cut out in the House, and this may mean its defeat in the Senate when it goes back for concurrence.

Game Bill in Doubt.

It is getting quite late for a comprehensive game bill. The Moncure measure has been pushed out of its place in the Senate from day to day. It may possibly pass, but many people who fear they will be required to pay \$1 a year have protested to their members against the general hunting license. This situation is exceedingly doubtful. Probably a redistricting bill in some form may pass perhaps with something approaching an adequate rearrangement of lines.

Although Dr. H. U. Stephenson was deprived yesterday on a point of order from passing the bill in the House providing for a home for the feeble-minded, he will try on Monday. It may pass, as there is a general demand for it.

The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac bills may pass, unless amended in the House by attorneys who are preparing to exercise their constitutional rights of criticism and amendment. In that event they will go back to the Senate, with probable death at the hands of the relentless bill murderers in that body.

But the Tax Commission bill is dead. It was finally abandoned yesterday by Speaker Byrd, its patron, and it is officially buried. It will make no effort to get it out of the Senate Finance Committee, realizing himself that in its present shape nothing can be done to make it workable.

HOUSE

Morning Session.

Discussion over procedure occupied considerable time at the opening of yesterday's session of the House. Delegates B. A. Banks had a plan to permit each member to call up one bill on its second reading. Five minutes was to be given to argument on each measure.

Bill Montague approved this, saying that many House bills are in Senate committees and will not be reported. Speaker Byrd opposed the resolution, pointing out that no House bill now on its second reading has any chance of enactment at this late day, and that therefore it would be a waste of time to discuss any such measure. The resolution was passed by 87 to 12.

Chairman Throckmorton, of the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation, called for Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac bills, but consented that they go over to-day.

Federal Income Tax.

Alden Bell tried to get consideration of the joint resolution proposing the income tax amendment to the Constitution. He pointed out, as did Hill Montague, that this was a part of national Democratic platforms, and that Governor Swanson had recommended it in his last message. Mr. Montague said that Senator Martin, in his speech in this city last summer, unequivocally endorsed the amendment.

The motion to take the matter up out of its order was defeated, 20 to 54. It is dead.

The clerk reported the primary bill, coming from the Senate with amendments. Speaker Byrd said it did not suit his views, and asked that the House refuse to concur in the Senate amendments, which was carried by a vote of 1 to 68. Later, when the Senate amended the bill, the House asked for a conference. Acting Speaker Williams appointed Messrs. Byrd, Jordan and Weaver as the committee.

Speakers for Party.

W. W. Willeroy tried to get up out of his order a bill amending a section of the Code. Judge Williams said that if the House persisted in such moves, he would abolish himself, as Democratic floor leader, from all party responsibility. He called attention to the fact that such motions could only be made to allow members to tell their constituents that they got the bills through the House and were killed in the Senate, since there was no chance of passage. The Willeroy motion was lost.

The following House bills were read the third time and passed:

Codifying the militia laws of the State. Patrons, Messrs. Cox, Coleman, of Norfolk, and Gilliam.

Amending the act in relation to the civil justice for the city of Norfolk. Patron, Mr. Banks.

Providing for obtaining information as to taxes and their source from local treasurers. Patron, Mr. White, of Rockbridge.

Relieving supervisors of Wise county from refunding certain moneys received by them for services in connection with road building. Patron, Mr. Chalkley, by request.

Permitting Accomack county to issue \$150,000 road bonds. Patron, Mr. Rev. Permitting the supervisors of Accomack county to issue \$150,000 road bonds. Patron, Mr. Rev.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

By LEWIS H. MACHEN.

FIRST SLAUGHTER TO-DAY

The first slaughter of bills upon the calendar begins to-day with the adoption by the Senate of the joint resolution passed by the House Tuesday to the effect that, beginning to-day, the Senate shall consider only House bills and the House only Senate bills. An amendment has been proposed in the Senate excepting the redistricting bill and those of a purely local nature. This amendment will probably be adopted, and the adoption of the amended resolution will follow; then farewell to the Senate bills on the Senate calendar, and House bills on the House calendar, which have any taint of generality about them!

At a rough guess, it may be said that about 100 bills will be executed by this one descent of the axe. It is a doleful slaughter, because some of them are really meritorious measures, thought out with care and prepared with patience and high hopes by their patrons, fought through indifferent or hostile committees, cruelly cast down by one or two objections, only to fall lifeless before this first devastating stroke.

There will still remain, however, a large number of bills eligible for passage under this resolution which will

nevertheless fail of passage because of insufficient time for them to be discussed and put upon their passage.

All, or nearly all, of the time and thought which has been bestowed upon these deceased measures, was much waste. Session by session the archives are littered with these legislative efforts which come to naught. If some means is ever found to limit the introduction of bills to such a number as may be actually reached by the vote of the General Assembly will be increased at least one-third. Yet how is the limitation to be done, and by whom is it to be applied? The question is full of perplexity and perhaps may never be solved. If the rules of the two bodies were amended so as to prohibit the introduction of bills after the first two weeks of the session, with such exceptions as a special joint committee might allow, there would be a fair opportunity for all of the bills introduced during the time (which would be the great majority of the well considered measures) to be discussed and submitted for final action. A better plan, of course, would be to have a session long enough to properly dispose of all the bills on the calendar.

REDISTRICTING

For the next two days at least the House and the Senate will be in the throes of recasting the districts of Delegates and Senators. Nothing so disturbs the peace of a member of either branch of the Legislature as to propose to dismember his district. Never was any legislative body called upon to make substantial changes in the political districts of the State without creating a certain number of heart burnings and hard feelings. In some cases a member must sit and see himself legislated out of his seat. In those cases grief may be ill concealed and lamentations loud.

The saving grace in redistricting bills is that they are never passed in such a thoroughgoing form as that in which they are proposed. By a series of compromises and adjustments, the most acute causes of disagreement are removed, and only the most unfortunate really survive.

The House committee has endeavored to effect such a pacific result and has almost succeeded. Strange to say, the proposed reshaping of the senatorial districts occasioned nearly as great dissatisfaction in the House as that of its own districts. This bone of contention has been removed by cutting out

of the House bill that section which related to the Senate districts, the idea being that when the bill reaches the Senate it may be amended by tacking on the provisions for the senatorial districts which that body may choose to adopt.

A neat parliamentary point presents itself there. Is a redistricting bill which does not provide for Senate districts a complete bill? If not, can it be considered in the Senate until it is made complete? Of course, it might be made so by tacking on the present scheme of senatorial subdivision, with perhaps only one slight change.

It is freely talked about the Capitol that if the scheme of senatorial districts as proposed by the Senate is not satisfactory to the House, the latter body will reject it and send the whole matter to conference, with results which no man may foresee.

One thing is certain, the Constitution requires the recasting of the legislative districts at each session, and the thing must be done. It certainly cannot be done in a manner wholly satisfactory to all more particularly concerned, yet it is pretty certain to be accomplished in a way that will be reasonably acceptable to the State at large.

Requiring fish ladders in Clinch River at Speer's Ferry, Scott county. Adjusting the payment for tuition of free school pupils who attend in a district other than that in which they reside.

Discusses Redistricting.

On taking up the legislative redistricting bill Alden Bell tried again to have the Culpener senatorial district left as it is. He called the bill as it came from the committee a crazy quibble. Mr. Oliver relieved his mind by saying that he did not intend to propose to change any Senate district.

Thereupon Mr. Oliver offered his amendment striking out all that part of the bill relating to the districts for the State Senate, which was carried.

The amendment which was then taken up, and at once the most important issue—the status of the county of Appomattox—was reached. Mr. Stratton, of that county, moved to amend the bill by giving Appomattox and Prince Edward each one member in the House, instead of one between them, and by reducing the membership from Norfolk city from four to three.

Daniel Coleman, of Norfolk, said that he would support this one member to Appomattox, that historic county.

Wants More for Roanoke.

Protest was made by William Watts. He did not think the delegates belonged to Norfolk to be given away. He had been much impressed with Speaker Byrd's efforts for tax equalization, and would support the bill if the Speaker moved on Tuesday to dismember his district aimed at the equalization of representation. He showed how Roanoke had increased in population 52 per cent during the past decade, and that it had an area of 1,000 square miles, which should entitle it to credit in House districts. He did not think that Roanoke should have only the one member and a floater with Bedford. He wanted two for his city.

Colonel M. Bowman said that if the Norfolk members had any delegates to give away, they should go where they would do the most good. He feared for the party in the South-west, where the districts were equalized. Bedford, he said, should have two delegates and Roanoke city two. Instead of continuing to give members to small populations in the Eastern part of the State.

Should Appomattox and Prince Edward be given a member each, said Hugh A. White, they would have double the representation to which they were entitled. Fair dealing must be had in the apportionment, he said.

Amending the act regarding the rating and posting of poll tax payments.

Requiring the Secretary of the Commonwealth to place two additional sets of Virginia reports in the State Library.

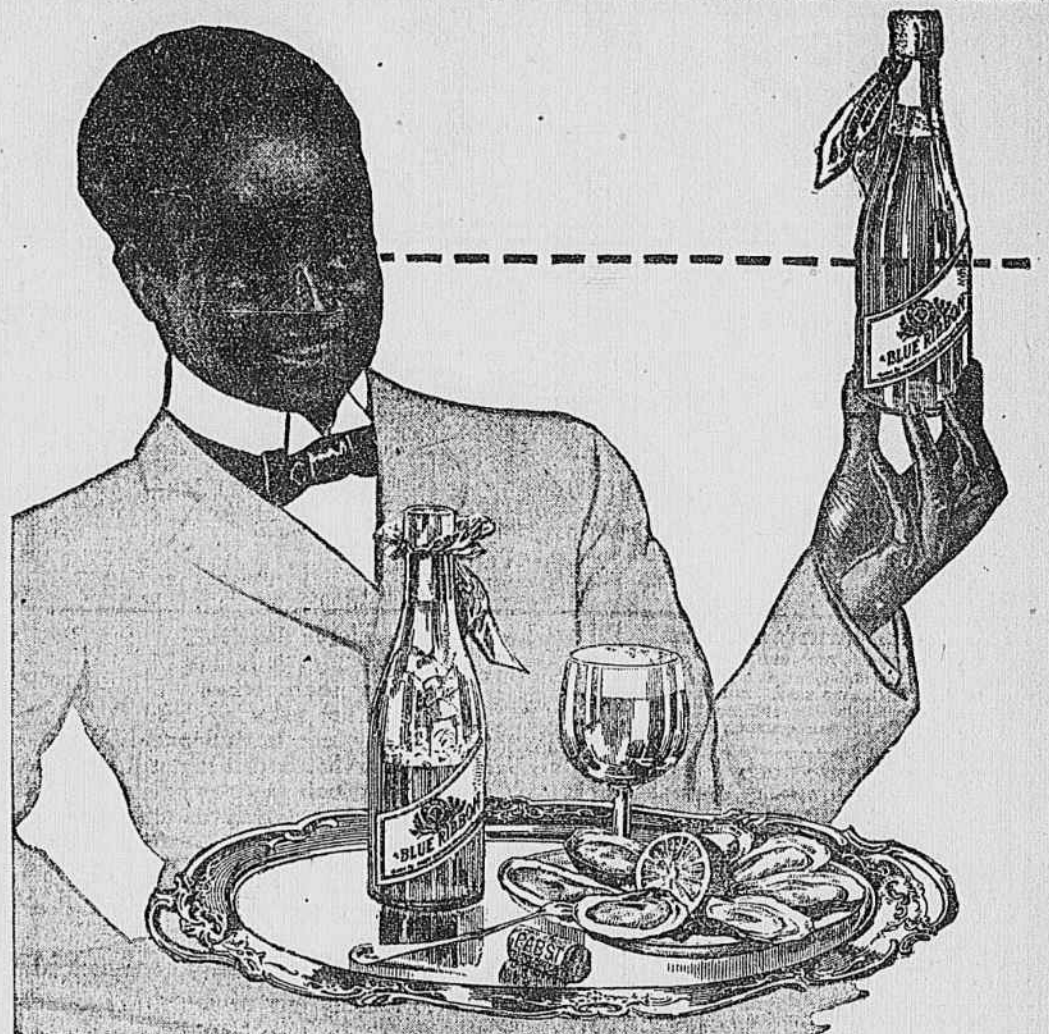
Amending the license tax law as to public exhibitions.

Continuing the appropriation for the Gettysburg monument.

Amending the charter of the town of Bedford City, and changing its name to Bedford.

Permitting clerks of courts to close their offices on Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day.

Amending the charter of the town of Bowling Green, Caroline county.



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Noes—Baker, of Chesterfield; Bargamin, Borden, Bowman, Burt, Chalkley, Daniel, Flanagan, Fulton, Gilliam, Grant, Kent, Moore, Mustard, Norris, Radford, Richardson, Rolston, Row, Rutherford, Smith, Spessard, Stephenson, of Bath; Tabb, Throckmorton, Tiffin, Ute, Walton, Watts, White, of Rockbridge; Wise and Wisler—32.

The announcement of the vote was greeted with applause, which was sternly checked by Acting Speaker Williams.

Other Proposals Felt.

John Rutherford then tried to have Powhatan taken from the House district, with Gloucester and Fluvanna. He explained how the two counties, which now form the district are united by bonds of connection, and how Powhatan would not fit in.

Such a change, said Mr. Oliver, would leave Powhatan out in the cold, with no representation at all. The Rutherford amendment provided nowhere for it to go. The motion was lost.

Dr. Rolston sent in an amendment to give Rockingham county two members of the House, as at present, instead of one, as proposed in the bill. It has 34,903 people. Mr. Oliver said this would make 101 members, while the Constitution limits it to 100.

George N. Earmen, the Republican member from Rockbridge, made his first speech of the session. He told of the area of his county, of its large and tax-paying population, of the extra sums it pays into the State Treasury, and of its being the tenth legion of Democracy. The amendment was lost.

Wise Keep Plaster.

Mr. Wise tried to rearrange the districts in the northern part of the State. He wanted to retain the floater member from Fauquier and Loudoun, as at present, and to do so he put Prince William and Stafford together and added King George to Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg. When he previously agreed to give up the floater

er, he said, he thought the district was to be arranged according to population, but now saw that such a motive was to be ignored.

Mr. Oliver pointed out that Spotsylvania and King George are not contiguous, and the Wise motion was lost.

Mr. Watts then proposed to cut out the floater between Bedford county and Roanoke city, and give these subdivisions two members each. He proposed to take the extra man from Richmond. This brought Edwin P. Cox scurrying to his seat. The amendment was lost, 27 to 38.

Willeroy Fights Time.

Then W. A. Willeroy began his argument on his substitute for the committee bill. His measure makes practically no changes in existing lines.

It was speedily evident that he proposed to filibuster against the bill, for he did not discuss its merits to any extent. He devoted himself to attacking the bill in two of the afternoon papers of the day before, in which he was pictured as consulting with the secretary of the Anti-Saloon League, which statement he denounced as "a mere, absolute and unqualified falsehood."

As to the statements by an afternoon paper regarding the work of prohibitionists, he said he did not believe there was a single prohibitionist on the floor.

Before he had proceeded very far, Mr. Willeroy announced that the House would probably be in session until this morning. The members wanted to leave, having accepted the invitation to dine at the Business Men's Club.

Trying to Adjourn.

At last Mr. Willeroy yielded to a motion to adjourn. It was lost. Acceding to the suggestion of the floater, this cost him his right to the floor, and Mr. Peck was recognized to move the pending question. The pending question was declared carried on a show of hands by a vote of 42 to 33, but on roll call it was defeated by 31 to 46.

Mr. Willeroy again got the floor and continued. Hugh A. White carried him copies of morning newspapers to use when he was through with those printed in the afternoon. The House sat, intensely amused, and secured some way to cure the situation. Judge Williams said that if the speaker yielded for a motion to adjourn, and it were carried, he would be entitled to the floor when the special order comes up again. But if the motion were defeated, he would lose the floor. Thereupon, Mr. Willeroy said he would speak on.

resolution were adopted it might result in killing the redistricting bill, since if the House should not complete it by the time of adjournment yesterday, it would be unable to take up its further consideration under the resolution, and the bill could never reach the Senate. He suggested that an amendment be added excluding from the rule all special orders in either House.

Another amendment to exempt bills of a purely local nature, was offered by Senator Rolston. Upon motion of Senator Walker action upon the resolution was deferred until this morning.

Conference on Primary Bill.

A message from the House reported that that body refused to concur in the Senate amendments to the Byrd-Faustherston primary bill. The Senate insisted upon its amendments and voted to submit the bill to a joint conference.

Senator Holt asked the Senate to take out of its regular order his bill to prescribe the effect as evidence to be given to deeds prior to the year 1883. Determined opposition was offered by Senator Royall, who expressed it as his belief that the bill "will prove of irreparable damage to landholders in many parts of the State." The measure has proceeded to re-establish its place, but far-reaching in effect.

The statute proposed to establish out of hand a missing link in a deed, he said, instead of requiring the missing link to be established by court procedure.

In the district which he represented, said Senator Royall, the law would work special hardship. In one of the counties the courthouse has been destroyed three separate times with consequent damage to records. Landholders have proceeded to re-establish their claims in accordance with the law provided now in cases where records are destroyed. The proposed law, he said, would tend to muddy still further the titles to these deeds, instead of to clarify them.

The bill was defended by Senator Mapp and Senator Walker, neither of whom could see how the law could

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

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